

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** March 6, 2008

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 5:19 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Attending Members**

Susie Day, Chair  
Ginny Cain  
Monroe Gray, Jr.  
Janice McHenry  
William Oliver  
Mike Speedy

#### **Absent Members**

Vernon Brown

### **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 62, 2008 -appoints Matthew T. Klein to the Indianapolis Greenways  
Development Committee  
"Do Pass" Vote: 5-0

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, March 6, 2008. Chair Susie Day called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, William Oliver, Mike Speedy, and Janice McHenry. Monroe Gray, Jr. arrived shortly thereafter, and Vernon Brown was absent.

PROPOSAL NO. 62, 2008- appoints Matthew Klein to the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee

Mr. Klein said that he is an attorney for Bose, McKinney and Evans where he practices Environmental Law. He said that he lives in Pike Township, a few feet away from the Eagle Creek Trail. Mr. Klein has a wife named Terri, and two children. He said that he is respectfully requesting to be appointed to the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee for many reasons. His chief reasons are his passion for the Greenways, Economic Development opportunities, as well as recreational and health opportunities. He currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Greenways Foundation, a not- for- profit organization. They promote development, maintenance, and enhancement of Greenways all across Indiana. Mr. Klein said that he has done his best to help Karina Straub, Greenways Manager and others.

Councillor Speedy said that he has known Mr. Klein for 10 years from working on a lot of different volunteer efforts, and that he understands his commitment for the community. Councillor Speedy said that he thinks Mr. Klein will bring a good balance of sophistication and training with a passion for something that is so valuable to the community, such as Greenways. Councillor Speedy thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Councillor McHenry said she has also had the privilege of knowing Mr. Klein for eight years, and has worked with him on a lot of different activities. She said she has known him to be a hard worker, and knows that he is very interested in Greenways, Parks and the environment.

Councillor Oliver said that Mr. Klein's credentials are quite impressive, and although he has just known Mr. Klein for a moment, he has known the ladies and gentlemen of the council for several months, and some for a couple of years. He said the Councillors think highly of Mr. Klein, therefore he would vote for Mr. Klein's confirmation.

Councillor McHenry moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver to forward Proposal No. 62, 2008 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Joseph Wynns, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), said they have been having a series of meetings on their comprehensive plan, and they are pleasingly surprised at the amount of people that have been attending. He said 30-50 people are coming out to the meetings to discuss concerns they have for Parks. He said they had a meeting in Councillor Cain's district, Lawrence North, and it was fabulous to hear how people were supportive and really interested in Parks. Mr. Wynns said they attended the Mayor's lunch for Parks at the Westin Hotel, where 500 people attended. He said the Mayor spoke very highly of Parks value toward crime reduction and neighborhood revitalization. Mr. Wynns said the meeting at Pike was cancelled due to

the ice storm. He also said that once they get the information from people, they go through it all and filter it, and they have a good time listening to people and their concerns. He said they have a meeting planned for Center Township to talk about Parks. People on the east side were concerned about maintenance as it relates to Pleasant Run Parkway and Ellenberger Park, and people are telling them the good and the bad. Mr. Wynns said that the Mayor is also watching the meetings, and expressed the need to make sure the meeting is carried out in Pike. He said people are interested in Indy Parks, and that is a good sign. There have been two Saturday meetings, one at Krannert at 10:00 a.m., and Decatur Township at 1:00 p.m. They want to hear what they are saying, and they incorporate all three pieces: meetings, citizens, and surveys. Mr. Wynns thanked the Council for their support of Parks, and acknowledged that they have some challenges ahead with property taxes and money issues, but that will not stop them from being successful. He said if they do the right thing for the right reasons, resources will come to help. Mr. Wynns asked a representative from Parks to explain the process.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gray arrived at 5:07 p.m.}

Don Colvin, Administrator of Resource Development announced that Thursday's March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held at the Glendale Branch Library, located at 6101 N. Keystone, from 7-8:30 p.m. Mr. Colvin said the Parks and Recreation's Open Space Plan updates a five- year plan. He said this is required for both state and federal grants. The plan collects the community's vision of what they would like to see included in their park system not only over the next five years, but some of the initiatives go beyond ten and twenty years. Mr. Colvin said it is a wonderful way to gather the neighborhood's input of the big picture and of their township, as well as the county. He said it also allows them to go to other funding agencies, and show them it is a well laid out, thought out plan. He said because they value people's time, Parks thought it was important to update the 2002 Greenways Master Plan. Therefore, they are doing two plans at the same time. Mr. Colvin said connectivity is important to everyone, whether it is a park trail, health and fitness, exercise or the larger Greenways network which they are building to connect to schools, businesses, churches, government centers, and the community. He said a lot of conversation is about Greenways and the future parks and recreation for Marion County.

Mr. Wynns added that he is glad to see Mr. Klein coming on to the Greenways Development committee, and that Mr. Klein is probably familiar with the plan. Mr. Wynns said that there are some connectivity challenges for the trails that they have already developed. He said some of them go to a certain point and stop, such as with Pogues Run. He said some of the challenges put forth to the Greenways Development Committee will be how to complete the trails. Mr. Wynns said a lot of the trails outside of the Monon have not been completed. He said some serious challenges are represented in the report by dotted lines. He also said that he has stressed to Mr. Colvin that when they have their first meeting with the Greenways Development Committee, that he should take the report and see where the different connections are. Mr. Wynns said in addition to the Pennsy and the White River Greenway trail coming on, they already have some existing trails which have challenges, and they are working to fix those challenges. He called it a good plan, which is very active. The plan is good through 2012. Mr. Wynns said they want to make sure that when someone is riding their bike on the trail, they do not just come to a stop. He said people want connectivity, such as accessing

the cultural trail, and downtown. Mr. Wynns said although Pogues Run goes all the way to Brookside Park, they need to determine how to connect the Pogues Run Basin on 1-70 to Brookside and on to Spades downtown. The plan calls for them to determine connectivity issues such as that. He said long-time Councillor Gray inquired about the trail's Trio system from 71<sup>st</sup> Street to Northwestway Park. Mr. Wynns said they have challenges and it is something that they will layout with the Greenways Development Committee. He said they are telling people they are not ignoring them, but they have to make sure they complete the connectivity.

Mr. Colvin said that down on the Southside, there were no real plans, because there were no existing abandoned railroad corridors or streams that were not developed. He said he hopes that community discussion points out opportunities to look at some high transmission line corridors. As developers continue to build, and road improvements continue, there will be some additional bike lanes or improved sidewalks they can connect through areas where they do not have a lot of public right-of-ways. Mr. Colvin said they are trying to drill down another level with the Greenways Master Plan, to find some of those things that were not in the conversation before. He said they have the Metropolitan Plan Organization looking at bike and pedestrian connection and new sidewalk ordinances. He said there are real opportunities that were not on the table in 2002, which is why they have made updates to this plan, as well as the comprehensive Open Space Plan.

Councillor Oliver said that he is glad Mr. Klein was there to hear some of the matters at hand. He asked Mr. Wynns what the progress is on East Washington Street and the old National Trail. Mr. Wynns said they are still involved in land acquisition. He said they have about a \$2,000,000 grant from the State to acquire the land and do the design. Mr. Wynns said they are just about complete in the process of laying out the trail. Mr. Colvin said for them to acquire additional federal dollars they must have 100% of the trail identified and laid out. There can be no questions about the route of the trail. He said that it does not have to be in public ownership, but it has to be clearly a bonafide trail. Mr. Wynns said they have one or two challenges which they are working out with a couple of property owners, but once they resolve those, they are eligible to apply for another \$6,000,000 for the actual development. Councillor Oliver asked where the connection is coming back towards town. Mr. Colvin said that it starts at Ellenberger Park, runs south on Ritter, and lines itself with the Pennsey Trail. From there, it goes to the town of Cumberland. He said the town of Cumberland is also developing their segment of the Greenways Trail, and Mr. Klein has previously committed help from the Greenways Foundation to further the initiative. Mr. Colvin said they welcomed that help because they need strong voices to help in this particular project. He said there are some commercial developers that have not been so willing to talk to Parks yet, and that is where they need members of the Development Committee to help open conversations. Mr. Colvin said as a public employee, he may not be able to enter through those doorways.

Councillor Speedy asked when will Perry Township be rescheduled, how many meetings they have had so far, and what townships they have been to. Mr. Colvin said that the meeting for Perry Township has not been rescheduled for March 18, 2008. He said it will be at the Southport Branch Library from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., located at 2630 E. Stop 11 Road. Mr. Colvin said they met with Wayne, Franklin, and Decatur Townships, and Washington Township is scheduled for that night. Pike Township had to be rescheduled

because of the ice storm. He said they also have meetings planned with Center Township and the Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability. He said they have some other techniques to present the information to the group, and they are hoping the meeting will help Parks understand the needs of the disabled, as well as provide success stories of how they have used the Trail and Park systems.

Councillor Speedy said he appreciates the attention they have focused on Perry Township within the last year or two, and how they are trying to find various park amenities and looking at different options. He said he has had extensive conversations with Duke Energy about power lines, and he hopes they had a better experience. Councillor Speedy said that he remains optimistic, and again he appreciates their time, and continuous work on the project. Mr. Wynns said that they cannot give many details, but in Perry Township, they had a pretty good lead on another large piece of property. Councillor Speedy asked if it is the one they have talked about. Mr. Wynns replied in the affirmative. He said they are trying to work through some things, but Perry Township is one of the dense areas. Also, in Washington Township, they are working on Wyandot school and some property in that area. Mr. Wynns said they are also taking on the White River School. They are gradually expanding and entering neighborhoods that need attention, and he wishes they could have gotten the power line piece. He said it could have made a big difference. Councillor Speedy replied that it would have helped a great deal, but he remains optimistic, and they are persevering, which is how things get done.

Councillor McHenry asked Mr. Colvin to restate the time of the meeting for Pike Township. Mr. Colvin said the meeting for Pike Township will be Tuesday, March 25, 2008 from 6:30-8 p.m. The meeting will be in the Westview Healthplex Sports Club Conference Room, second floor, and the address is 3660 Guion Road.

Councillor Cain said she mentioned this information before, but wants to do it again. She said there are 27 acres at 82<sup>nd</sup> and Sergeant, and the selling price is \$1,000,000. She said it would be awesome if she and the board members could help get access to some of that, even if it was just a trail along the edge. Mr. Colvin said some of the trails turn into a dotted line, which represents private properties, and that particular area is Mudd Creek. He said for that exact reason development has not taken place there, but if a developer or a gift came forth to the department, that dotted line would become a solid line. Mr. Colvin said that is what they are hoping for in their vision, the community's vision, and in the future. Councillor Cain said it is a beautiful piece of property. Mr. Wynns replied that it was a really nice piece. Mr. Colvin added that there are no parks in that area. Councillor Cain offered her services if she help in any way.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Day, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Committee

SD/cj